

REMARKS

1 The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being
anticipated by Polchek et al. (5,536,227). The Examiner has also rejected claims 1 and
7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yang (GB 2159061A). The
5 applicant respectfully disagrees with the aforementioned rejections. However, in an
effort to expedite the prosecution of the present application, the applicant has amended
claim 1. The Examiner found that claims 4-6 would be allowable if rewritten in
independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening
claims. Claim 4 depends from claim 1. Accordingly, claim 4 has been canceled and its
10 limitation that "said disk further defining a slot connecting said hole to the outer edge of
said disk" has been added to claim 1. Accordingly, amended claim 1 is believed to be
allowable. Claims 2 and 7 each depend from amended claim 1 and are believed to be
allowable for at least the reasons set forth hereinabove with respect to claim 1.
15 Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the aforementioned
rejections and allow claims 1, 2 and 7.

 The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being
unpatentable over the Yang reference. Again, the applicant respectfully disagrees with
the aforementioned rejection, but as discussed hereinabove, has amended claim 1,
20 which is believed to be allowable. Claim 3 depends from amended claim 1.
Accordingly, claims 1 and 3 are believed to be allowable and the Examiner is
respectfully requested to reconsider the aforementioned rejection and allow claims 1
and 3.

1 The Examiner found claims 8-12 to be allowable. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's consideration of the same.

5 Applicant has added new claim 13, which depends from claim 1 and is believed to be allowable for at least the reasons set forth hereinabove with respect to claim 1. Moreover, the cited prior art fails to show the limitations identified within claim 13.

10 The applicant has also added new independent claim 14, which includes the limitations found within original claims 1 and 6. As discussed previously, this combination of limitations was found to be allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider new claim 14 and allow the same. Claims 14-19 have been added and each ultimately depend from newly added claim 14. These new claims do not add new matter but simply include limitations found from dependent claims that originally depended from claim 1. These claim are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons set forth herein with respect to claim 14. Accordingly, 15 the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider these newly added claims and allow the same.

20 The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider each of the foregoing rejections in light of the amendments and comments set forth hereinabove and allow claims 1-19.

25 No fees or extensions of time are believed to be due in connection with this amendment; however, consider this a request for any extension inadvertently omitted, and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 502093.

Respectfully submitted,

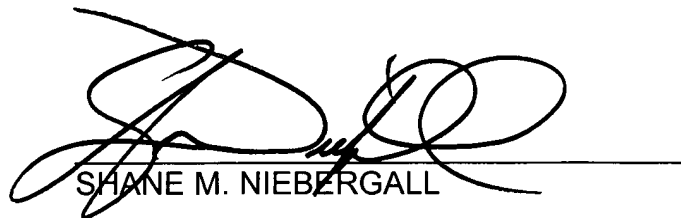


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the original of this AMENDMENT for CHRISTOPHER J. SMITHBERG, Serial No. 10/084,396, was mailed by first class mail, postage prepaid, to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 15th day of December, 2004.



SHANE M. NIEBERGALL